

**Opinion 2384 (Case 3641) – *Ascalabotes sthenodactylus* Lichtenstein, 1823 (currently *Stenodactylus sthenodactylus*; Reptilia, Gekkota, GEKKONIDAE): conservation of current usage of the specific name by designation of a neotype**

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

*c/o Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377, Republic of Singapore (e-mail: iczn@nus.edu.sg)*

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**Abstract.** Under the plenary power the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has ruled to set aside all previous type fixations for *Ascalabotes sthenodactylus* Lichtenstein, 1823 (currently *Stenodactylus sthenodactylus*) and to designate as neotype a specimen that conserves current usage of the specific name.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Gekkota; *Stenodactylus*; *Stenodactylus sthenodactylus*; *Stenodactylus mauritanicus*; elegant gecko; Sahara; North Africa.

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### Ruling

- (1) The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature hereby uses its plenary power to set aside all previous type fixations for *Ascalabotes sthenodactylus* Lichtenstein, 1823 and to designate as neotype specimen MNHN 2012.0250, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (formerly BEV.8989 from the collection of the Biogéographie et Écologie des Vertébrés team, EPHE-UMR 5175 CEFE in Montpellier); an adult female collected from Wadi El Natrun, Egypt (Lat: 30.4233/ Long: 30.2928, elevation –10 m), DNA GenBank accession numbers KC190520 (12S rRNA), KC190733 (16S rRNA), KF667509 (RAG2) and KF667510 (MC1R);
- (2) The name *sthenodactylus* Lichtenstein, 1823, as published in the binomen *Ascalabotes sthenodactylus* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

### History of Case 3641

An application to use the plenary power to conserve current usage of the name *Ascalabotes sthenodactylus* Lichtenstein, 1823 was received from Pierre-André Crochet and Philippe Geniez (*Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, Montpellier, France*), Sherif Baha El Din (*Dokki, Cairo, Egypt*), Aaron M. Bauer (*Department of Biology, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.*) and Salvador Carranza and Margarita Metallinou (*Institute of Evolutionary Biology (CSIC – University Pompeu Fabra), Barcelona, Spain*) on 4 December 2013. After correspondence the Case was published in BZN 71(1): 17–21 on 31 March 2014 (Crochet et al., 2014). The title, abstract and keywords of the Case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on the Case were received.

The Case was sent for vote on 1 September 2015 (VP 21). A greater than two-thirds majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (20 For, 1 Against).



### Decision of the Commission

At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2015 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 20: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bouchet, Brothers, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Krell, Kottelat, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Pyle, Rosenberg, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 1: Bogutskaya.

Fautin, Ng, Patterson and Štys were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Bouchet applauded the fact that the neotype is a modern specimen with associated tissue and molecular sequences.

### Original descriptions

The following are the original descriptions to the entries on either an Official List or an Index in the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*sthenodactylus*, *Ascalabotes*, Lichtenstein, 1823: 102.

### References

- Crochet, P.-A., Baha El Din, S., Bauer, A.M., Carranza, S., Geniez, P. & Metallinou, M. 2014. *Ascalabotes sthenodactylus* Lichtenstein, 1823 (currently *Stenodactylus sthenodactylus*; Reptilia, Gekkota, GEKKONIDAE): proposed conservation of current usage of the specific name by designation of a neotype). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(1): 17–21.
- Lichtenstein, H. 1823. *Verzeichniss der Doubletten des zoologischen Museums der Königl. Universität zu Berlin nebst Beschreibung vieler bisher unbekannter Arten von Säugethieren, Vögeln, Amphibien und Fischen*. 118 pp. T. Trautwein, Berlin.